

Please amend the paragraph bridging lines 4-12 of page 1 of the application as follows. A clean copy of the amended paragraph is enclosed on a separate page:

Cross-Reference to Related Applications

A1 This is a continuation-in-part of U. S. S. N. 09/398,110 filed September 16, 1999^{Now Abandoned} and titled Valved Fenestrated Tracheotomy Tube Having Outer and Inner Cannulae. U. S. S. N. 09/398,110 is a continuation-in-part of U. S. S. N. 09/360,274 filed July 26, 1999^{Now Abandoned} and titled Valved Fenestrated Tracheotomy Tube. U. S. S. N. 09/360,274 is a continuation of U. S. S. N. 08/996,282 filed December 22, 1997 and titled Valved Fenestrated Tracheotomy Tube, now U. S. Patent 5,957,978. U. S. S. N. 09/398,110 and U. S. S. N. 09/360,274 are both now abandoned. The disclosures of these prior applications are hereby incorporated herein by reference.

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Please amend the paragraph bridging lines 15-28 of page 6 of the application as follows. A clean copy of the amended paragraph is enclosed on a separate page:

Detailed Descriptions of Illustrative Embodiments

A2 Referring now to Figs. 1-5, a speaking tracheotomy tube system 10 includes an outer cannula 12 for insertion into a tracheostoma 14. Outer cannula 12 includes an inflatable cuff 16. Cuff 16 lies in the trachea 18 of the wearer 20 below the passageway 22 upward into the pharynx 24 of the wearer 20. Outer cannula 12 also includes a first port 21 which resides outside the neck of the wearer 20 during use and a second port 23 which resides inside the neck of the wearer 20 below cuff 16 during use. The cuff 16 is inflatable through a line 26 (illustrated only in Fig. 1, for the purpose of clarity) once the outer cannula 12 is in place in the trachea 18 to prevent the passage of secretions 27 from the upper respiratory tract, including pharynx 24, downward into the lungs of the wearer 20. Such secretions inevitably pool 27 above the cuff 16 when the cuff 16 is inflated in place. To evacuate such pooling secretions 27, a tube 29 extends in an indentation 31 provided therefor down the outer sidewall of outer cannula 12. Tube 29 terminates at an open end 33 just above the level of the cuff 16. The pooled secretions 27 are evacuated by the application of a vacuum 37 (illustrated only in Fig. 2, for the purpose of clarity) to the outer end 35 of tube 29.

[✓] Please amend the paragraph bridging lines 12-16 of page 7 of the application as follows. A clean copy of the amended paragraph is enclosed on a separate page:

A³ The speaking tracheotomy tube system 10 also includes an inner cannula 40 which is insertable through the lumen 42 of the outer cannula 12. Inner cannula 40 includes a port 41 at an end thereof which lies adjacent port 21 when inner cannula 40 is inserted into its use orientation within outer cannula 12 and a port 43 which lies adjacent port 23 when inner cannula 40 is inserted into its use orientation within outer cannula 12. Inner cannula 40 also includes a connector 60 portion for connecting the inner cannula 40 to a ventilator 62, illustrated in block form only in Fig. 2, for the purpose of clarity, to inflate the wearer's lungs.

✓
Please amend the paragraph bridging lines 3-13 of page 9 of the application as follows. A clean copy of the amended paragraph is enclosed on a separate page:

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In another embodiment of the invention illustrated in Figs. 6-7, a speaking tracheotomy tube system 110 includes an outer cannula 112 for insertion into a tracheostoma 114. Outer cannula 112 includes an inflatable cuff 116. Cuff 116 lies in the trachea 118 of the wearer 120 below the passageway 122 upward into the pharynx 124 of the wearer 120. Outer cannula 112 also includes a first port 121 which resides outside the neck of the wearer 120 during use and a second port 123 which resides inside the neck of the wearer 120 below cuff 116 during use. The cuff 116 is inflatable through a line (not shown) once the outer cannula 112 is in place in the trachea 118 to prevent the passage of secretions from the upper respiratory tract, including pharynx 124, downward into the lungs of the wearer 120. A tube 129 extends in an indentation 131 provided therefor down the outer sidewall of outer cannula 112. Tube 129 terminates at an open end 133 just above the level of the cuff 116. Pooled secretions are evacuated by the application of a vacuum to the outer end (not shown) of tube 129.

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Please amend the paragraph bridging lines 23-27 of page 9 of the application as follows. A clean copy of the amended paragraph is enclosed on a separate page:

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The speaking tracheotomy tube system 110 also includes an inner cannula 140 which is insertable through the lumen 142 of the outer cannula 112. Inner cannula 140 includes a port 141 at an end thereof which lies adjacent port 121 when inner cannula 140 is inserted into its use orientation within outer cannula 112 and a port 143 which lies adjacent port 123 when inner cannula 140 is inserted into outer cannula 112. Inner cannula ~~112~~ 140 also includes a connector 160 for connecting the inner cannula 140 to a ventilator 162, illustrated in block form in Fig. 6 only, for the purpose of clarity, to inflate the wearer's lungs.

Please approve the amendments to the drawings indicated in red on the attached copies of Figs. 1-4, 6 and 7. Upon approval of these amendments and allowance of this application, formal drawings incorporating the approved amendments will be submitted.

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